

July 26, 2010

Karen Douglas, Chair
California Energy Commission
Media and Public Communications Office
1516 Ninth Street, MS-29
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: Proposed Revisions to State Energy Program Guidelines

Dear Chair Douglas,

The City of Ventura wishes to declare its support for the CaliforniaFIRST program. As have many jurisdictions around the country, we have watched with growing disappointment as the Federal Housing Finance Agency's decision has disrupted the implementation of PACE programs.

It is hoped that the CEC will do whatever it can to bring this issue to a timely and satisfactory resolution to preserve the original intent of the PACE program. In the meantime, we encourage the CEC to continue to support an array of financing options along with PACE for energy efficiency retrofit and renewable energy projects. The CaliforniaFIRST team is uniquely qualified to continue their work with the CEC to facilitate a mutually beneficial resolution to this issue.

As one of the 141 jurisdictions awarded SEP1 funds under the CaliforniaFIRST program, we understand the need to adjust this solicitation in response to FHFA's actions in the absence of a timely resolution. However, as you know there is a tremendous need for innovative financing tools.

Letter – Karen Douglas

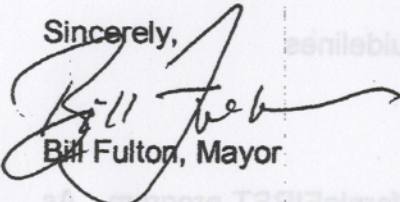
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It is important to understand the adverse effects associated with the potential loss of SEP1 funding. The City of Ventura would not only be unable to access this unique program but would lose the benefit of job creation, stimulation of our economy, green house gas reductions, and the leveraged funding for other retrofit programs including EECBG, Investor-Owner Utility rebate programs, and the proposed federal HOME STAR program.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the City of Ventura's energy programs, please contact Joe Yahner at 805 652-4558.

Sincerely,



Bill Fulton, Mayor